

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 OIC-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15
PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02
STR-05 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 AF-10
NEA-10 /102 W
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O 011731Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3438
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 17471

USEEC, PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, EFIN, EGEN, EIND, ETRD, ECIN, EAGR, PFOR
SUBJ: EUROPEAN COUNCIL, DECEMBER 5-6, 1977: PREVIEW

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 17122; (B) BRUSSELS 16968; (C)
BRUSSELS 16974; (D) BRUSSELS 16973; (E) BRUSSELS 13941;
(F) 76 THE HAGUE 6629; (G) BRUSSELS 16966

1. ACCORDING TO PERM REP SOURCES, FOLLOWING IS THE AGENDA
FOR THE DECEMBER 5-6 MEETING IN BRUSSELS OF THE EUROPEAN
COUNCIL:

(A) ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY:
TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED UNDER THIS BROAD HEADING
INCLUDE:

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--AN EC COMMISSION PAPER ON ECONOMIC GROWTH,
INFLATION, AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE COMMUNITY;

--THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS FOR RELAUNCHING
THE DRIVE TOWARD ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION (REF A);

--THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS FOR A NEW COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT (REF B), ON WHICH THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN ASKED TO TAKE A DECISION;

--THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY PROPOSAL FOR ADJUSTMENT OF SHORT-TERM CREDIT MECHANISMS (REF B);

--CURRENT INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE PROBLEMS, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE SHIPBUILDING, STEEL, AND TEXTILE INDUSTRIES AND ON MEMBER STATE TRADE IMBALANCES WITH NON-EC COUNTRIES (THIS ITEM WAS ADDED TO THE AGENDA AT UK AND FRENCH REQUEST.)

(B) ARTICLE 131:

THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WILL TRY TO REACH AGREEMENT ON APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 131 OF THE ACCESSION TREATY, WHICH PLACES A CEILING ON THE INCREASE IN RELATIVE SHARES TO BE PAID INTO THE EC BUDGET BY THE NEWEST MEMBER STATES FOR THE YEARS 1978 AND 1979. THE DISPUTE INVOLVES HOW ARTICLE 131 SHOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH THE CHANGEOVER OF THE BUDGET TO A EUROPEAN UNIT OF ACCOUNT BASIS (REF C).

(C) REGIONAL FUND:

THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WILL TRY TO RESOLVE THE CURRENT
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DEADLOCK (REF D) ON THE SIZE OF THE EC'S 1978 REGIONAL FUND AND ON WHETHER OR NOT THAT FUND SHOULD INCLUDE A NON-QUOTA SECTION FOR THE COMMISSION'S DISCRETIONARY USE FOR INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS.

(D) EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DIRECT ELECTIONS:

.THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WILL REVIEW MEMBER STATES' PROGRESS TOWARD RATIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON DIRECT ELECTIONS AND THEIR ADOPTION OF THE NECESSARY ELECTORAL LEGISLATION. DURING THAT DISCUSSION, THEY WILL TRY TO MAKE SOME ESTIMATE OF THE LIKELY DATE OF THE FIRST DIRECT ELECTION, WHICH CURRENTLY REMAINS SCHEDULED FOR MAY/JUNE 1978, ALTHOUGH MOST BRUSSELS OBSERVERS NOW EXPECT SOME SLIPPAGE IN THE DATE. THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO TRY TO ARRIVE AT A PRELIMINARY DECISION ON THE EMOLUMENTS TO BE ACCORDED MEMBERS OF THE FIRST DIRECTLY-ELECTED PARLIAMENT. THE AGENDA HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED EC MEMBER STATE DECLARATION ON DEMOCRATIC COMMITMENT (REF E), WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED AT SOME STAGE IN THE PROCESS OF LAUNCHING DIRECT ELECTIONS; HOWEVER, THE HEADS OF GOVERN-

MENT ARE NOW EXPECTED TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF THE
DECLARATION UNTIL THEIR APRIL 1978 EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING.

(E) EC ENLARGEMENT:

THE FRENCH HAVE REQUESTED DISCUSSION OF ENLARGEMENT PRI-
MARILY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURAL
PROBLEM. OTHER MEMBER STATES (NOTABLY ITALY, IRELAND,
AND GERMANY) WANT DISCUSSION TO COVER A BROADER RANGE OF
INTERLOCKING PROBLEMS, INCLUDING AGRICULTURE, STRUCTURAL
TRADE PROBLEMS, AND THE COMMUNITY'S REGIONAL POLICY.

(F) TINDEMANS REPORT ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION:

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IN KEEPING WITH THE DECISION OF THE NOVEMBER 1976 EUROPEAN
COUNCIL (REF F), THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ARE TO HOLD THEIR

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ANNUAL REVIEW OF PROGRESS TOWARD THE OBJECTIVES OUTLINED
IN THE TINDEMANS REPORT. TWO SEPARATE STATUS REPORTS --
FROM THE COMMISSION AND THE BELGIAN COUNCIL PRESIDENCY --
HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED FOR DISCUSSION.

(G) POLITICAL COOPERATION:

HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ARE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS IN GENERAL
TERMS THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE NINE'S EFFORTS TO COORDINATE
EXTERNAL POLICY ARE BEARING FRUIT. NO SPECIFIC TOPICS
HAVE BEEN INSCRIBED ON THE AGENDA UNDER THIS HEADING, BUT
AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST ARE EXPECTED TO RECEIVE GREATEST
ATTENTION.

2. COMMENT: IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE HEADS OF
GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO SETTLE EASILY ALL THE
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CONTENTIOUS ISSUES ON WHICH THEY ARE BEING ASKED TO TAKE
FIRM DECISIONS: ARTICLE 131, REGIONAL FUND, AND COMMUNITY
FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT. IN A NOVEMBER 28 CONVERSATION WITH
AMBASSADOR DEAN AND THE CHARGE, DANISH PERM REP RIBERHOLDT
POINTED OUT THAT, BECAUSE GERMANY IS BEING ASKED TO PAY THE
MOST IN EACH CASE, THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT THAT BONN WILL
AGREE TO ALL THREE ISSUES ALONG LINES RECOMMENDED BY THE
COMMISSION. THIS VIEW WAS ECHOED BY GERMAN DEPUTY
PERM REP, WHO TOLD CHARGE NOVEMBER 29 THAT, OF THE THREE
ISSUES, THE COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT IS LIKELY TO
BE REJECTED. GERMAN DEPUTY PERM REP THOUGHT ARTICLE 131
WOULD BE DECIDED ALONG THE LINES OF BELGIAN/DANISH
COMPROMISE (REF C). MORRIS

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